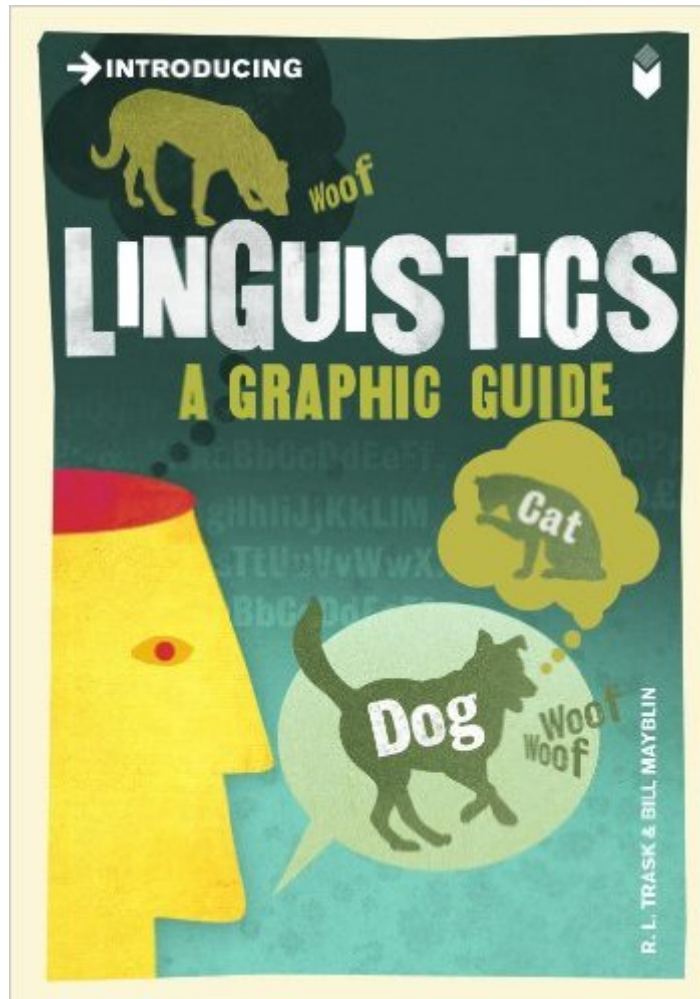


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Introducing Linguistics: A Graphic Guide (Introducing...)



Synopsis

Covering thinkers from Aristotle to Saussure and Chomsky, "Introducing Linguistics" reveals the rules and beauty that underlie language, our most human skill.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's important to understand that the Introducing series is in the business not of teaching you the entirety of any given subject, but merely introducing you to it. This, as with many other titles in the series, gives you a very quick summary of the movement and its history and touches on many of the significant branches. Believe me, you can always go deeper, and really one ought to if one desires anything close to an actual understanding of the subjects the people at Totem Books purport to introduce. What I find is that these books in general, and this title specifically, prepares your for deeper reading by giving you the gist of things, and thus allows you to engage other texts with greater sustain and keener acumen. There are other series of course, Cambridge has their wonderful, if frequently denser, Companion series, and Paul Strathern has made his career giving a similar gist in 90 minutes. I would say that the people at Totem have hit the so-called sweet spot with these though. Strathern is too often concerned with biographical detail for my tastes, and

spends less time with the ideas themselves (though of course the life of a thinker is important to understanding them. Cambridge has wonderful guides, but even these may be a tad much for someone merely seeking to dip their toe in and take a look around. This is why I recommend this series. The graphic approach hopefully renders these concepts more accessible to a wider audience, and can indeed make what are often thought of as dull subjects, quite entertaining.

Although this is a brief book but it provide a very descent general introduction to linguistics. It works as an overview of the topic and a launch pad to further reading. The reason why I gave 4 stars is the illustrations, I thought that they were of mediocre quality and didn't add much to the content.

I stocked this book in a professional library for educators because I feel like so many people can use a refresher in Linguistics. It's understandable and covers all the important ideas. The teachers appreciate the way it approaches a sometimes dry subject with humor. It won't get you through a college course on linguistics but it's a great start or reminder.

I bought this because....well, I don't know, I think I wanted to look at the pictures or something. It turns out, though, that it does a great job of taking major concepts and presenting them in tiny, easy to understand bits. With pictures. It's fun AND helpful. Whaaa??!

Easy, informative and quick read. Thought-provoking and full of fun factoids to share with friends who aren't generally interested in this subject.

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